

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 January 2004 (22.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/008683 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04L 9/32**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IL2003/000579

(22) International Filing Date: 14 July 2003 (14.07.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/396,507 , 16 July 2002 (16.07.2002) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC,
SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

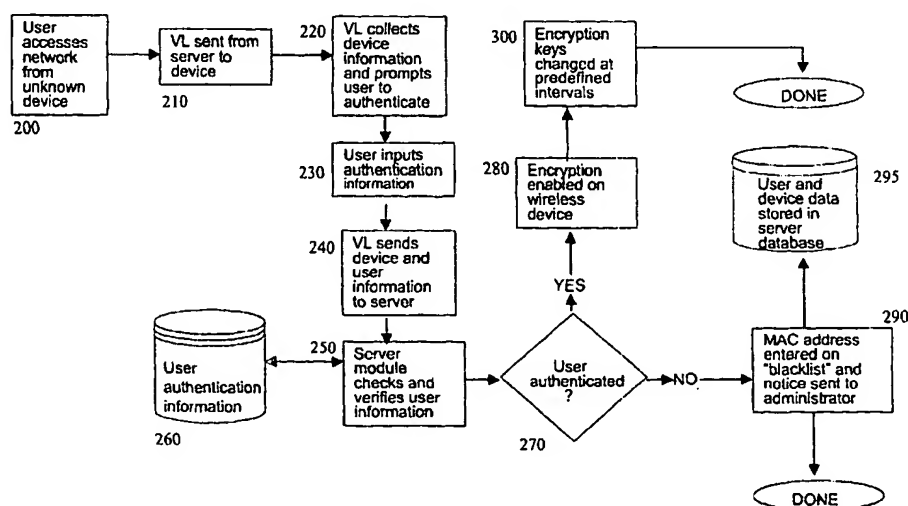
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SI, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: AUTOMATED NETWORK SECURITY SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) **Abstract**/A method is presented for automatically providing a secure connection between a wireless network including a server and server software installed thereon and a device seeking access to the wireless network. In response to an initial request for access to the wireless network by the device, a software agent is installed on the device which gathers identification information from the device and prompts the user to provide authentication information which is transmitted to the server. If successfully verified, the server stores the identification and authentication information in an authorized access list, provides a unique encryption key to the requesting device and grants the authenticated user and identified device access to the wireless network. The method also includes procedures for when authentication fails and for granting subsequent access to an authenticated device and user.